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Mr. K. V. R. Swami :—" May I know whether anything is provided for minor irrigation tanks which were breached in the storms ?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" Provision for minor irrigation tanks is voted by the Council in a lump sum and is distributed by the Board of Revenue. I have no doubt the Agency will also get its share."

Capital expenditure on irrigation works.

* 1759 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. Swami : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state for the years 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1925—

(a) the total capital expenditure on all irrigation works—dams, canals and others as distinguished from tanks ;

(b) the extent of irrigation by canals, rivers or streams as distinguished from that irrigated by tanks ; and

(c) the total revenue both gross and net separately ?

A.—(a) to (c) The hon. Member is referred to the published Administration Reports for the years mentioned which contains the information that has been compiled.

The classification of irrigation works adopted in the Administration Reports is twofold—viz., " works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are kept " and " works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are not kept. " Under the former category the reports furnish two statements—one giving particulars relating to canals and the other relating to reservoirs (or tanks). But in the canal systems there are tanks fed by the canals, and in the reservoir systems there is in some cases direct irrigation from canals which supply the tanks. Figures showing the total irrigated extent and the total expenditure on irrigation works classified under (1) canals and (2) tanks separately, cannot be collected without a reference to the village accounts. As regards works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are not kept, the Administration Reports contain only lump figures showing the total for the whole Province. These again cannot be split into two classes as required without recompilation from the village accounts. The work of fresh compilation to arrive at the statistics the hon. Member desires would be very great and the Government regret they cannot order it to be undertaken.

Land Revenue

Remission of tree-tax on lands assigned to depressed classes.

* 1760 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. Swami : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the remission of the value of trees is given in all cases where land is given to members of depressed classes ?

A.—No. Remission is granted only when the applicant is considered to be too poor to pay the value of the trees.

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Mr. K. V. R. Swami :—" May I ask whether it is not a fact that all the members of this caste are extremely poor ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" Not all, Sir."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" Is there any limit to the value of trees, which might be granted free ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" Notice, Sir ; I am not aware of it."

Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu :—" Who is to judge as to the poverty of any applicant to entitle him to remission ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" The officer making the grant, Sir."

Forests

Transfer of ryots' forests to the Revenue Department.

*1761 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased (i) to place before the House, in view of the transfer of ryots' forests to the Revenue Department for management by panchayats, a statement showing as standing on 30th September 1928—

(*a*) the number of divisions, ranges and forests abolished ; and

(*b*) the number of conservators, deputy assistant and extra assistant conservators, rangers and other establishment of forests reduced, each cadre and grade being shown separately ; and (ii) to state—

(*a*) how the holders of the reduced or abolished appointments have been otherwise employed in the Forest Department or elsewhere ;

(*b*) whether any of the rangers thrown out of the department have been transferred to the Revenue Department to supervise or advise the panchayats managing ryots' forests, and if so, how many ; and

(*c*) why more of them are not employed in that capacity ?

A.—i (*a*)—

	Number abolished.
Divisions	7
Ranges	28

The proposals for reduction in the staff of foresters are under consideration.

(*b*)—

Designation.	Number.	Number to be reduced to.
Conservators (including Chief Conservator)	7	7
Deputy and Assistant Conservators ...	57	50
(Madras Forest Service) Extra Assistant Conservators	40	32
Rangers	203	179

Foresters [vide answer to clause (*a*) above].

The figures furnished represent only the present proposals which have not yet been accepted by Government. The matter is pending consideration of the question of reorganization of the department.